

Interviewee: Amy Smith (AS)	Interviewers: Fiona Smith (FS); Flora McDowall (FM)
Date of Interview: 21 Februaryl 2018	Ref: DG61-1-1-1-T

TITLE	<i>Notes made by for the Kirkcudbright artists remembered project, by fieldworker Fiona Smith, and read by fieldworker Flora McDowall.</i>
REGION	<i>Dumfries and Galloway</i>
SUBJECTS/KEY-WORDS	<i>Artists; Cultural history.</i>
COUNTY	<i>Kirkcudbrightshire</i>
TOWN	<i>Kirkcudbright</i>
DATE OF INTERVIEW	21st February 2018
INTERVIEWER	<i>Fiona Smith</i>
YEAR RANGE	<i>1930's onwards.</i>
SUMMARY	Amy Smith's recollections of painters of the Kirkcudbright School, and her and her sister's experiences of these artists.

FM - Flora MacDowall

[00:00:00]

FM: These are notes made for the Kirkcudbright Artists Remembered project, by fieldworker Fiona Smith, and read by fieldworker Flora McDowall, from a meeting on the 21st of February 2018 [REDACTED] with participant Amy Smith, aged 94, born in Borgue. Amy Smith was happier to chat and have notes taken, and that is what I am reading now.

Amy is now 94 years of age. As a girl of 14 she worked as a housemaid at Auchengool House in Kirkcudbright. She remembers being aware of the many artists in the town, but that being so young, one only spoke to them when spoken to. Miss Hornel would often be standing at her front door and would say "good morning" to Amy as she passed by. One day she was sent by her employer to clean for Jessie M. King at Greengate, in the High Street, as the regular cleaner was on holiday. As Amy was scrubbing the front step Jessie came out the house holding a piece of chalk and asked Amy to draw something for her. Jessie then proceeded to draw a rabbit on the step for Amy. Jessie rode around on an old 'sit up and be "bicycle. She would be wearing a black cape – she had a few – all with different coloured linings. Her hat would always sport a band matching the colour of the cape lining. Jessie initiated the inclusion of a princess at the annual pageant, of which she was the driving force and one of the main organisers. Ann Parker was the first princess and she wore a velvet cape and a crown. Amy described Jessie M. King as "a gentle person."

Mrs Rae was the model for "The Goose Girl," by William Hannah Clarke, for which she was only paid a few pennies. Rose Moffat, nee Poland, disclosed that her mother was the model for Hornel's painting of three girls - one model, in three poses with changes to hair colour.

Joyce McGeoch's portrait was painted by Lena Alexander, but Joyce didn't like it and gave it away.

Vera Alabaster, from Fisher's Close, and Anna Hotchkis from Greengate Close were good friends who spent time in China together. Amy's half-sister, Jessie, was a cleaner for Anna Hotchkis. One day Jessie was moving heavy, gold-framed paintings for Anna when she suffered a heart attack and subsequently died.

That is the end of the recording